

**From:** DanielJuroff@cs.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/9/01 12:49pm  
**Subject:** Settlement with Microsoft Corp.

I am writing to register my displeasure with the proposed settlement with Microsoft Corporation in the anti-monopoly suit that has been pending now for so many years. Having found Microsoft to be a monopoly, it appeared that the trial Court had opened the door for sweeping corrections to the business practices of a company that has always placed its "bottom line" over the interests of consumers and business partners alike. It appears now that the Department of Justice has decided to take the role of "protector of the economy" (as though they were actually qualified to do that), rather than proceed with sanctions against Microsoft based on the merits of the case, by watering down its position on the basis of the impact it might have on the economic climate.

It seems that Microsoft has already had a negative impact on the economy by stifling fair competition, contributing to the failures of some businesses, and over-charging customers for its products. Moreover, Microsoft has produced faulty software that requires almost limitless patching and updating to ensure functionality and security, while discouraging the development of meaningful alternative operating systems by unfairly bringing its influence to bear on competition in the market place. In the meantime, Microsoft has introduced each new operating system as though it were "the best thing since sliced bread," but has really introduced only minor improvements, with most of the focus being on incorporating the patches and fixes to the previous version into the new one, then selling it over again as a "new" product.

The agreement sanctioned by the DOJ is a slap on the wrist of Microsoft, and permits the monopoly to continue unabated, as evidenced by the release of an even more proprietary operating system in the form of Windows XP. I'd like to know how it was possible for the DOJ to go from a position of breaking up the company, to a position of doing almost nothing at all. Surely there is more to it than honest concern for the economy, since Microsoft has never been the fulcrum of the economy in the past.

I sincerely hope that the nine states and the District of Columbia holding out for stronger sanctions and safeguards are successful in their attempt to shape the final judgement in this matter. They obviously have the true interests of the consumers (i.e., voters) and the long-term health of the economy at heart.